

Maine H1N1 Influenza (“Swine Flu”) Update

Summary of Information and Activities for Thursday, June 4, 2009, 5 PM

1 new out-of-state case reported

Flu info on the Internet: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/swine-flu-2009.shtml>

Maine Data:

- 16 confirmed H1N1 cases and 1 probable case have been identified among Maine residents, along with 5 out of state residents who were ill and tested while visiting Maine, for an overall total of 22. This total includes reports from earlier this week of 5 cases in Cumberland County and 2 cases in York County. All but one case have now been confirmed. In addition, an out-of-state resident was diagnosed with confirmed H1N1 after testing in Knox County.
- **National Data:** US CDC reports 11,054 confirmed and probable cases and 17 deaths (<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm>).
- **International Data:** WHO reports 19,273 cases in 66 countries (<http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>).

Recent Updates:

Case finding:

- Seven Maine residents were identified with H1N1 earlier this week: 5 in Cumberland County and 2 in York County. Cumberland County cases include 1 probable diagnosis and 2 confirmed diagnoses among youth, and 2 confirmed adult cases. The 2 York County cases are among adults, one of whom is hospitalized.
- Ten additional confirmed H1N1 cases have occurred among Maine residents: 3 adults and 1 youth in York County, 3 adults and 2 youths in Cumberland County, and 1 youth in Penobscot County. All have recovered.
- Five cases have been identified among non-Maine residents who were ill and underwent testing while traveling in Maine. One test was conducted in York County, 1 in Hancock County, 2 in Lincoln County and 1 in Knox County.
- The Maine CDC public health laboratory has performed over 1,700 influenza PCR tests this past month, and is now able to do confirmatory H1N1 testing, eliminating the need have specimens confirmed at US CDC.

H1N1 in other New England states:

- Although Maine CDC has identified 17 residents and 5 out of state residents with either confirmed or probable H1N1, other nearby states are seeing more of the infection, resulting in school closures and hospitalizations.
- Massachusetts has over 700 confirmed cases of H1N1, mostly in the Greater Boston area, with 90% of them in people under 40 years of age. (<http://publichealth.blog.state.ma.us/h1n1-swine-flu/>).
- New York has also seen several hundred confirmed cases, mostly among young people, and has had several dozen schools closed.
- New Hampshire has 53 confirmed cases, with all but five under age 50 (http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/DHHS_SITE/swineflu.htm).

Key messages:

- As the infection spreads and re-circulates, the numbers of cases and specific locations become less meaningful. The number of identified cases simply indicates the presence of H1N1 in Maine.
- As the infection spreads we expect to see some increase in severity, as has been seen in other states.
- There appears to be a high spread among children and young adults.
- The strategies recommended the last four weeks continue to be very important. We all need to stay informed, be prepared, and practice proper respiratory hygiene.